



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Your ref: RBT/P300869GB
Application No: GB 0029054.4
Applicant: ABB Power T & D Company Inc

Examiner: John Watt
Tel: 01633 814764
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Latest date for reply: 15 July 2002

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Patents Act 1977

Examination Report under Section 18(3)

Basis of the examination

1. In the examination of your application I have taken account of the page 12 you filed with your agent's letter of 28 November 2000 to amend the application as it was printed by WIPO during the international phase. I confirm that I have taken into account the International Preliminary Examination Report dated 4 August 2000 (as well as any earlier reports, if existing).

Inventive step

2. The invention as defined in at least claims 1, 2, 8-10, 16-18 & 24 is obvious in view of what has already been disclosed in the following documents:

- ▶ GB 2116776 A (CATERPILLAR) see whole document;
- ▶ GB 2042270 A (HEINEMANN) see whole document;
- ▶ US 4008876 (SINGER) see whole document; and
- ▶ US 3988706 (CIRCLE SEAL) see whole document.

The above cited specifications are examples from many solenoid actuator arrangements in which mechanical means are used to adjust the force and/or time profile being applied to a particular member. It should be noted that the use of springs, mass and damping elements to adjust the dynamic nature and the force and/or time characteristics of a mechanical actuation system is taken to be well known to a man skilled in the art of designing such systems. GB 2116776 A, US 4008876 and US 3988706 disclose the use of springs in such adjustments and GB 2042270 A the use of armature mass. When the above disclosures are considered there is no clear inventive step involved in at least claims 1, 2, 8-10, 16-18 & 24.

Further search

3. As the above citations are merely cited examples further search may be required when the intended scope of the invention becomes clearer.